

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image sensing apparatus comprising:  
an image sensor that performs image sensing in  
response to an inputted image sensing instruction;  
5 a recording medium that stores a sensed image; and  
a controller that controls to record on said  
recording medium the sensed image in a first format  
instead of a second format, different from the first  
format, which is designated in advance when a format  
10 change instruction is designated by a user within a  
predetermined period after sensing the image.
  
2. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the first format is a lossless compression  
15 format and the second format is a lossy compression  
format.
  
3. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1  
further comprising a memory that stores a sensed image  
20 in the first format at least until the format change  
instruction is designated.
  
4. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein said controller controls the latest image data  
25 of the first format stored in said memory to be  
recorded onto said recording medium in response to the  
format change instruction.

5. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said controller rejects the format change  
instruction while an image sensing operation is in  
progress in response to the image sensing instruction.

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6. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said controller displays on a display unit at  
least one operation status of "Start recording",  
"Recording", and "Recorded" when recording the sensed  
10 image of the first format onto said recording medium.

7. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein said controller controls at least one of  
information indicating whether or not there is any  
15 sensed image of the first format which has not been  
recorded onto said recording medium and information  
indicating whether or not each sensed image of the  
first format has been recorded onto said recording  
medium, and updates the information when a sensed image  
20 of the first format is recorded onto said recording  
medium in response to the format change instruction.

8. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 7,  
wherein said controller determines whether or not there  
25 is any sensed image of the first format recordable onto  
said recording medium based on the information when the  
format change instruction is inputted, and prevents a  
sensed image of the first format from being recorded

onto said recording medium when it is determined that there is no recordable sensed image of the first format.

9. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 8  
5 further comprising a notification unit,

wherein said controller controls the information to be notified by said notification unit when preventing recording onto said recording medium.

10 10. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller rejects the format change instruction in a case where the second format is a lossless compression format.

15 11. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when at least one of a level drop of a power source supplying power to the image sensing apparatus and an operation error in the image sensing apparatus is detected, the format change instruction is 20 automatically issued.

12. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a sensed image is recorded in the second format on said recording medium until at least the format 25 change instruction is issued.

13. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein, after the format change instruction is issued,

the sensed image of the second format is erased from said recording medium.

14. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 13,  
5 wherein said controller controls, when additional data is added to the sensed image of the second format to be erased, the additional data to be added to a corresponding sensed image of the first format.
- 10 15. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 13, wherein erasure of the sensed image is performed in accordance with a capacity of said recording medium.
- 15 16. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the controller rejects the format change instruction when the capacity of said recording medium is less than a predetermined amount.
- 20 17. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined period is a period until a next image sensing instruction is issued.
- 25 18. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined period is a period when the sensed image is displayed on a display.
19. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined period is a period when

electric power is supplied to the image sensing apparatus.

20. The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1,  
5 wherein the first format is a lossy compression format  
and the second format is a lossless compression format.

21. An image recording method comprising:  
10 performing image sensing in response to an  
inputted image sensing instruction; and  
recording on a recording medium a sensed image in  
a first format instead of a second format, different  
from the first format, which is designated in advance  
when a format change instruction is designated by a  
15 user within a predetermined period after sensing the  
image.

22. The image recording method according to claim 21,  
wherein the first format is a lossless compression  
20 format and the second format is a lossy compression  
format.

23. The image recording method according to claim 21  
further comprising storing in a memory a sensed image  
25 in the first format at least until the format change  
instruction is designated.

24. The image recording method according to claim 23,  
wherein, upon recording the sensed image in the first  
format, the latest image data of the first format  
stored in the memory is recorded onto the recording  
medium in response to the format change instruction.

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25. The image recording method according to claim 21,  
wherein the format change instruction is invalidated  
while an image sensing operation is in progress in  
response to the image sensing instruction.

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26. The image recording method according to claim 21  
further comprising displaying on a display unit at  
least one operation status of "Start recording",  
"Recording", and "Recorded" when recording the sensed  
image of the first format onto the recording medium.

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27. The image recording method according to claim 21,  
further comprising:  
20 managing at least one of information indicating  
whether or not there is any sensed image of the first  
format which has not been recorded onto the recording  
medium and information indicating whether or not each  
sensed image of the first format has been recorded onto  
the recording medium; and  
25 updating the information when a sensed image of  
the first format is recorded onto the recording medium  
in response to the format change instruction.

28. The image recording method according to claim 27 further comprising:

5 determining whether or not there is any sensed image of the first format recordable onto the recording medium based on the information when the format change instruction is inputted; and

10 preventing a sensed image of the first format from being recorded onto the recording medium when it is determined that there is no recordable sensed image of the first format.

29. The image recording method according to claim 28 further comprising, when preventing recording onto the 15 recording medium, notifying the information.

30. The image recording method according to claim 21, wherein the format change instruction is rejected in a case where the second format is a lossless compression 20 format.

31. The image recording method according to claim 21 further comprising automatically issuing the format change instruction when at least one of a level drop of 25 a power source supplying power to the image recording method and an operation error in the image recording method is detected.

32. The image recording method according to claim 21, wherein a sensed image is recorded in the second format on the recording medium until at least the format change instruction is issued.

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33. The image recording method according to claim 32 further comprising erasing the sensed image of the second format from the recording medium after the format change instruction is issued.

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34. The image recording method according to claim 33 further comprising, when additional data is added to the sensed image of the second format to be erased, adding the additional data to a corresponding sensed image of the first format.

15 35. The image recording method according to claim 33, wherein erasure of the sensed image is performed in accordance with a capacity of the recording medium.

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36. The image recording method according to claim 21, wherein the format change instruction is rejected when the capacity of the recording medium is less than a predetermined amount.

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37. The image recording method according to claim 21, wherein the predetermined period is a period until a next image sensing instruction is issued.

38. The image recording method according to claim 21, wherein the predetermined period is a period when the sensed image is displayed on a display.

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39. The image recording method according to claim 21, wherein the predetermined period is a period when electric power is supplied to the image recording method.

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40. The image recording method according to claim 21, wherein the first format is a lossy compression format and the second format is a lossless compression format.

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41. A storage medium readable by a data processing apparatus, said storage storing a program which is executable by the data processing apparatus and comprises program codes realizing the image recording method described in claim 21.

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42. An image sensing apparatus comprising:  
an image sensor that performs image sensing in response to an inputted image sensing instruction;  
a recording medium that stores a sensed image; and  
25 a controller that controls to record on said recording medium the sensed image in a first format in addition to the sensed image in a second format, different from the first format, which is designated in

advance when a format change instruction is designated by a user within a predetermined period after sensing the image.

5 43. An image recording method comprising:  
    performing image sensing in response to an  
    inputted image sensing instruction; and  
    recording on said recording medium the sensed  
    image in a first format in addition to the sensed image  
10 in a second format, different from the first format,  
    which is designated in advance when a format change  
    instruction is designated by a user within a  
    predetermined period after sensing the image.

15 44. A storage medium readable by a data processing  
    apparatus, said storage storing a program which is  
    executable by the data processing apparatus and  
    comprises program codes realizing the image recording  
    method described in claim 42.